

Message Text

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SUBJECT: WORKING PARTY 1 OF OECD COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE
ON AGRICULTURAL POLICIES; APRIL 25-28, 1977

1. REGARDING THREE ISSUES THAT ARE EXPECTED TO ARISE IN
THIS SESSION, THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD BE
GUIDED BY THE FOLLOWING.
2. THE PROPOSAL ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL POLICY SET
OUT IN AGR/WP-1(77) SHOULD BE SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE AND
THE WILLINGNESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH
A STUDY, AT LEAST THROUGH PHASE ONE, SHOULD BE INDICATED.
3. DR. HIRSCH MAY ACCEPT VICE-CHAIRMANSHIP OF WP-1, IT
BEING UNDERSTOOD THIS RESPONSIBILITY COULD NOT BE CONTINUED
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AFTER HIS PARIS ASSIGNMENT ENDS.

4. REGARDING AGR/WP1(77)3 ON PARTTIME FARMING, THE UNITED
STATES HAS NO COMMENTS ON COUNTRY REPORTS ON AUSTRIA,
FINLAND, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND AND SWITZERLAND.
REGARDING CANADA, ON PAGE 5, PARA. 4 LAST SENTENCE SHOULD
BE DELETED SINCE REFERENCE TO SITUATION IN UNITED STATES IS

WEAK ARGUMENT TO SUPPORT A STATEMENT ABOUT CANADA. ALSO,

ON PAGE 7, MEANING OF PARA. 10 IS NOT CLEAR. DO FARMERS TAKE UP PARTTIME WORK BECAUSE THEIR FARMS DO NOT REQUIRE THEIR LABOR, OR IS FARM WORK ARRANGED TO REQUIRE LESS LABOR BECAUSE THEY ARE WORKING OFF THE FARM? THEN, REGARDING DRAFT GENERAL CHAPTER, COMMENTS MAY BE MADE ON FOLLOWING POINTS. ON PAGE 15, PARA. 32, COULD SOME ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION BE PROVIDED ON WHY PARTTIME FARMERS FAVOR MARKETING THEIR PRODUCTS THROUGH LOCAL MERCHANTS AND DIRECTLY TO CONSUMERS RATHER THAN THROUGH COOPERATIVES? ON PAGE 19, PARA. 41, WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY "ACTIVE ENCOURAGEMENT" U.S. GOVERNMENT IS GIVING TO EMPLOYEES IN TOWNS TO BUY SMALL AGRICULTURAL PROPERTIES; COULD AMPLIFICATION BE PROVIDED. ALSO ON PAGE 19, PARA. 44, THE COMBINING OF TWO MOVEMENTS, FARM TO NON-FARM EMPLOYMENT AND NON-FARM TO FARM EMPLOYMENT, IN ONE PARAGRAPH APPEARS TO WEAKEN MEANINGFULNESS OF DISCUSSION OF NON-FARM EMPLOYMENT PATTERN. REGARDING PAGES 27-28, PARA. 61, THE PHENOMENON OF RISING OFF-FARM INCOME FOR THE LARGER FARMS, AFTER OFF-FARM INCOME HAD STABILIZED AT THE VIABLE FAMILY FARM SIZE LEVEL, MAY BE LARGELY A NON-FARM TO FARM EMPLOYMENT MOVEMENT, E.G., LAWYERS AND DOCTORS BUYING FARMS. REGARDING PAGES 48-50, PARAS. 118 TO 124, A QUESTION MAY BE RAISED AS TO THE DIRECT IMPLICATIONS, IF ANY, FOR PARTTIME FARMING OF THE RECENT "URBAN TO RURAL" POPULATION MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SHARP CURTAILMENT OF EMPLOYMENT OF FOREIGN NATIONALS IN EC COUNTRIES.

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